

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /011 R

66605

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S/ S: O: KAKURZE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 071499

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ADDIS ABABA, AMMAN, LONDON,
SANAA, TEHRAN FROM JIDDA APR 16 REPEATED YOU:

QUOTE

S E C R E T JIDDA 1536

EXDIS

DEPT REPEAT TO USMTM, DHAHRAN, AND USCINCEUR

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MCAP, MPS, MASS, YE, YS

SUBJECT: YAR REQUEST FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE: PROPOSAL GIVEN
TO PRINCE SULTAN

REF: A. STATE 66153 (B) STATE 66350

SUMMARY: PRINCE SULTAN WAS INFORMED IN SUMMARY OF SITUATION AS
WE SEE IT IN PDRY AND WAS GIVEN US PROPOSALS FOR MOVING AHEAD
WITH PROMPT ACTION PROVIDE ARMS TO YAR, INCLUDING OUR WILLINGNESS
BEAR PORTION OF AIR TRANSPORT COST ITEMS TO REPLACE THOSE
DELIVERED BY SAUDIS TO NORTH YEMEN. SULTAN DISTINCTLY PLEASED
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BY THIS APPROACH, SUGGESTED WE MUST ALSO CONSIDER QUESTION OF AIR
ARM AND SOME GROUND ARMOR. AMB TURNED ASIDE SUGGESTION TWO USMTM

OFFICERS ACCOMPANY GENERAL KABBANI FOR ON- GROUND SURVEY IN YEMEN.
AT SECOND MEETING APR 15 WITH SULTAN, WE EMPHASIZED AGAIN NEED
FOR GETTING AT LEAST TOKEN SHIPMENTS PROMPTLY IN HANDS YAR. KING
ENGHUSIASTIC. KABBANI TO DEPART NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS. USMTM
GIVING ENERGETIC SUPPORT TO ENCOURAGE PROMPT, EFFECTIVE
SAUDI ACTION. END SUMMARY.

1. AMB. AND B/ GEN SMITH, CHIEF USMTM, MET WITH PRINCE SULTAN
APRIL 14 TO IMPART USG VIEWS AND PROPOSALS CONTAINED REFTEL A.
NOTING THAT IMMEDIATE THREAT POSED BY MASSING OF PDRY TROOPS
SEEMED NOW TO HAVE ABATED, AMB SAID YAR LEADERSHIP STILL CON-
CERNED WITH CONTINUING POTENTIAL FOR PDRY ATTACK AND WE ANXIOUS
SEE HOW WE COULD ASSIST. (SULTAN INQUIRED BRISKLY AS TO
SOURCE OF YAR IMPRESSION THAT PDRY TROOP CONCENTRATIONS HAD BEEN
REDUCED. AMB SAID HE DID NOT KNOW PRECISE SOURCE.) AMB NOTED
HE HAD DAY BEFORE GIVEN DEPUTY FONMIN MOHAMMED MAS' UD USG
ASSESSMENT OF PREVAILING INTENTIONS AND SITUATION PDRY AND
IRAQ (REFTEL B) WITH REQUEST THAT FONMINISTRY' S TRANSLATION
WHEN COMPLETED SHOULD BE TRANSMITTED TO SAQQAF, TO SULTAN AND,
IF MAS' UD THOUGHT APPROPRIATE, TO KING FAISAL HIMSELF.
SULTAN SAID HE HAD BEEN INFORMED OF THIS AND WAS LOOKING FORWARD
TO READING OUR APPRAISAL.

2. AMB THEN OUTLINED OUR APPROACH TO PROBLEM OF ARMING
YAR AS DESCRIBED PARAS TWO- FIVE REFTEL A. SHORT WRITTEN
SUMMARY IN ENGLISH AND ARABIC HANDED SULTAN. (COPY BEING
POUCHED.) AMB SAID WE BELIEVED IT IMPORTANT MOVE SOME SUPPLIES
PROMPTLY IN ORDER BOOST YAR MORALE. IN DISCUSSING US WILL-
INGNESS BEAR PORTION AIR TRANSPORTAION COSTS OF ITEMS TO REPLACE
THOSE DELIVERED BY SAG AND YAR, AMB MADE CLEAR THIS WAS " PORTION"
AND THAT AMOUNT WOULD HAVE BE NEGOTIATED. SULTAN OBVIOUSLY
VERY PLEASED BY WHOLE PROPOSAL AND EXPRESSED HIMSELF
BEING VERY MUCH IN FAVOR OF IT.

3. SULTAN THEN SUMMONED GENERAL KABBANI. LATTER HAS OVER
LAST TEN DAYS BEEN WORKING WITH COL. VINCENT, CHIEF USMTM ARMY
SECTION IN RIYADH, TO DEVELOP CONCEPT OF ANALYTICAL SURVEY OF
YAR NEEDS WHICH KABBANI IS TO UNDERTAKE IN YEMEN IN NEAR FUTURE.
SULTAN SAID HE SAW NORTH YEMEN REQUIREMENTS FALLING INTO
THREE BROAD CATEGORIES:

(AL) TWO SQUADRONS OF AIRCRAFT -- PERHAPS SOME OLDER MODELS
OF F-5. SAUDI ARABIA WOULD BE PREPARED TO ASSIST WITH TRAINING:
" SOME OF THEIR PEOPLE COULD COME HERE, WE COULD SEND SOME OF
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OURS THERE. SOME KIND OF AIR ARM IS VITALLY NEEDED BY YEMEN AS
A DETERRENT." ; (B) SOVIET TANKS POSSESSED BY YAR ARE TOTALLY
OUT OF ACTION. YEMENIS NEED SOME KIND OF ARMOR, A BATTALION OR
TWO; (C) YAR NEEDS, OF COURSE, IN ADDITION, THINGS AMB HAD
MENTIONED SUCH AS MACHINE GUNS, 106 MM RIFLES, TRUCKS, ETC.

4. SULTAN THEN SAID HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IF
TWO OR THREE OFFICERS OF USMTM COULD ACCOMPANY GEN. KABBANI AND
HIS TEAM TO YAR. THEY COULD BE " ATTACHED" TO AMERICAN EMBASSY,
WEAR CIVILIAN CLOTHES AND PLAY HELPFUL PART WITHOUT BEING NOTICED.

5. AMB DECLARED WE RECOGNIZED THAT LONG- RANGE REQUIREMENTS ON LINES MENTIONED IN SULTAN' S CAREGORIES (A) AND (B) WOULD EVENTUALLY HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED. OBVIOUSLY WHAT WE BOTH NEEDED TO DO AT PRESENT, HOWEVER, WAS CONCENTRATE ON THOSE THINGS WE COULD GET INTO HANDS OF YEMENIS QUICKLY. AMB DEMURRED AS TO SENDING US OFFICERS TO YEMEN, POINTING OUT THAT SANAA BAZAAR IS PROBABLY WELL PENETRATED BY TALE BEARERS FOR PDRY AND THAT IT WOULD BE HARD TO KEEP PRESENCE OF US OFFICERS CONCEALED. AMB EXPLAINED AGAIN TO SULTAN OUR PHILOSOPHY OF ASSISTANCE FOR YAR. USG IS NOW DETERMINED TO BE OF HELP BUT SEEKS ACT PRIMARILY THROUGH COUNTRIES OF REGION . IT CONTINUED BE IM- PORTANT WE AVOID RISK OF US- SOVIET CONFRONTATION ACROSS BORDER BETWEEN YEMENS. TOO PROMINENT US ROLE IN NORTH YEMEN COULD LEAD TO SOME EROSION ONE OF YAR' S MOST VALUABLE ASSETS: AMOST UNIVERSAL SUPPORT YAR ENJOYS AMONG OTHER ARAB STATES, EX- CCEPTING ONLY IRAQ. SULTAN ACCEPTED MY VIEW AND SAID SUGGESTION FOR INCLUDING AMERICANS WAS " ONLY AN IDEA." AMB ASKED WHEN KABBANI PLANNING DEPART FOR YEMEN, TO WHICH SULTAN REPLIED WITHIN FEW DAYS.

7. AMB AND GEN SMITH SAW SULTAN FOR FEW MOMENTS AGAIN APR 15, PROVIDING OPPORTUNITY EMPHASIZE ONCE MORE DESIRABILITY MOVING PROMPTLY GET AT LEAST TOKEN SHIPMENTS INTO HANDS OF YAR AS BADLY NEEDED BOOST FOR ITS MOREALE. SULTAN SAID HE HAD REPORTED TO KING FAISAL PREVIOUS EVENING ON OUR PROPOSAL AND THAT KING GREATLY PLEASED BY POSITIVE EVIDENCE US DESIRE MOVE PROMPTLY ASSIST WITH STRENGTHENING YAR. KING SUPPORTED THREE POINTS MENTIONED BY SULTAN IN HIS REMARKS TO AMB. WE ASKED AGAIN WHEN KABBANI MIGHT BE EXPECTED DEPART FOR YEMEN AND WERE TOLD " NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS" AND THAT KING WANTS SPEEDY ACTION.

8. COMMENT: CHIEF USMTM AND CHIEF ARMY SECTION RIYADH HAVE BEEN MADE FULLY FAMILIAR CONTENTS REFTEL A AND UNDERSTAND ITS PURPOSE S. USMTM DOING ITS BEST FILL GAPS CAUSED BY KABBANI' S
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LACK OF IMAGINATION, INCLUDING SUGGESTION, WHICH KABBANI HAS ACCEPTED, CO- OPTING TWO CAPABLE YOUNGER SAUDI OFFICERS TO ASSIST. ADVANTAGE IN SITUATION IS KABBANI' S WILLINGNESS RESPOND POSITIVELY OUR IDEAS. BELIEVE WE CAN, FOR EXAMPLE, HEAD OFF SUCCESSFULLY SAUDI NOTON THAT SOME OF THEIR OLD TRACKED TANKS WOULD BE OF ANY VALUE TO YEMENIS. WE HAVE STRESSED THAT 106' S ARE EXCELLENT ANTI- TANK WEAPONS. IN OTHER WAYS USMTM WILL CONTINUE PRESS SAUDIS IMPL EMENT FORMS OF ASSISTANCE WHICH CAN BE EASILY AND PROMPLTY ABSORBED BY IMPOVERISHED YAR ARMY. EMBASSY AND USMTM WILL ENDEAVOR EVOLVE FOR WASHINGTON CONSIDERATION SUGGESTIONS FOR COPING WITH SULTAN' S (A) AND (B) SINCE WE SEE THAT INEVITABLY THESE ARE GOING TO BE BROUGHT UP AGAIN.
THACHER

UNQUOTE ROGERS

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